



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI367743758

Thank you for your request for information relating to personal mobile devices for political members.

You have requested the following information:

1. How many political members at your Council use their own mobile devices instead of ones provided to them by your Council?

We can confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The Council only hold records for phones provided by the Council to Councillors.

However, to assist you with request, the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme makes provision of payments to Councillors for telephone line rental and an allowance for call use. Details of the amounts that can be claimed are set out in section 8 of the Scheme which can be found on the Council's website at:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s51102/Part%205%20-%20Members%20Allowance%20Scheme.pdf>

All local authorities are required to publish details of the allowances and expenses paid to Councillors and Coventry's data is available at:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/325/members_allowances

This shows the number of Councillors who have made claims for telephone expenses by year.

2. If the answer to the above is one or more, when submitting telephone expenses, does your Council reimburse the political member for their calls inclusive of VAT? i.e. the total call charge.

Within the limits set out in the Members Allowances Scheme, the Council reimburses the cost of business calls plus VAT.

3. Are there any phone numbers which your Council prohibits political members to claim for? (0870, 0345 etc).

Calls to these numbers are not reimbursed.

4. What is your Council's maximum allowance for political members' telephone usage in a single municipal year?

Please see the response to Question 1.

5. What is your Council's approach to the life-cycles of its mobile devices? (Does your Council recycle, donate or upgrade and how frequently?)

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/directory/83/green_business_directory/category/1195

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance